



FACULTY OF MUSIC
UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

RIGHT HAND TECHNIQUES OF UNDERGRADUATE
CLASSICAL GUITARISTS

MUF655


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DECLARATION OF AUTHORSHIP

"I declare that the work in this thesis is my own except for the quotations and summaries which have been duly acknowledge"

Date: 15. 1. 2014



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ABSTRACT

This study aims to ascertain how aware classical guitar students are concerning the importance of right hand techniques in guitar playing. It identified problems in right hand techniques of undergraduate classical guitarists at the Faculty of Music Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) and located the causes of the problems.

This study also help the students to understand about the right hand techniques such as tremolo, arpeggio, and right hand position, and how they apply while practice and playing the classical guitar. This study is also necessary to reduce the weaknesses in mastering the appropriate methods to play the classical guitar. It is because many of them always face the difficulties to apply their right hand techniques while playing classical guitar.

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CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

Background of Study

Classical guitar techniques may be organized broadly into issues pertaining playing techniques for the right hand and the left hand. In guitar performance elements such as musical dynamics and tonal variations are mostly determined by the hand that physically produces the sound. In other words, the hand that plucks the strings defines the musical expression. Historically this role has been assigned to the dominant hand which and for the majority of players, it is the right hand. According to Phillips Chappel (2005), the most important thing to remember about right-hand playing position is that the performers hold their index, middle and ring finger perpendicular to the strings as they strike. Thus, correct and appropriate right hand techniques are essential in playing the classical guitar effectively.

Just like playing the piano, the classical guitarist also use both hands to play the rhythm, bass, and melody. Attentions to using correct techniques for both hands are crucial in classical guitar playing. According to Robert Allan Lunn (2010), the traditional way to produce sound in classical guitar playing is to fret the notes with the left hand and to pluck the notes with the right hand. This traditional approach to the instrument can be found in guitar music from the 19th century. This includes composers such as Fernando Sor (1778-1839), Mauro Giuliani (1781-1829), and Francisco Tárrega (1852-1909). It should also be noted that many 20th century and present day composers continue to use the instrument in a traditional way. Most of the examples of extended technique for the guitar cited by this document are found by composers that worked in the latter half of the 20th Century up to the present day.